

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5**Security Council**
Sixty-seventh year**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the
rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory****Identical letters dated 7 June 2012 from the Permanent
Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

I am compelled to write today to convey the Palestinian leadership's serious concerns and outright condemnation of Israel's continuing illegal settlement policies and activities throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In flagrant defiance of international law and the demands of the international community to cease this illegitimate, destructive campaign, Israel, the occupying Power, continues all manner of settlement activities on our land and continues to provoke and incite with repeated declarations regarding the mal-intent to further colonize the Palestinian land. Rather than acting in accordance with international law and United Nations resolutions to bring an end to its 45-year military occupation of the Palestinian land, it is clear that Israel has chosen instead to entrench this occupation to the detriment of the Palestinian people, the Israeli people and the prospects for peace between them and in the region as a whole.

The Israeli Government has once again declared its intention to construct thousands more illegal settlement units, most deep inside the Occupied West Bank, and in areas in and around Occupied East Jerusalem. This latest blatant provocation involves the announcement just hours ago of the intention to construct 2,500 more settlement units in "Gilo", a massive settlement near the city of Bethlehem. The occupying Power has also proclaimed its plans to establish a 300-unit settlement in a declared military compound near the settlement of "Beit El", an illegal, deceitful manoeuvre that comes in follow-up to recent attempts to "legalize" the theft of Palestinian land and so-called settlement outposts and to obstruct or circumvent court-ordered demolitions, particularly regarding the "Ulpana" settlement. Moreover, it has announced plans to illegally establish another 117 units in the "Ariel" settlement, 92 units in the "Maale Adumim" settlement, 144 units in the "Adam" settlement and 114 units in the "Efrat" settlement. In addition, there are plans for the construction of another 84 units in the "Kiryat Arba" settlement, which is located in Al-Khalil, where hundreds of extremist Israeli settlers have been deliberately transferred in the midst of 200,000 Palestinians, who are subjected daily

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to terror, violence and intimidation by those extremist settlers, including their children, who are taught to hate and to constantly harass and inflict harm and humiliation on the Palestinian civilian population living there.

At this time, we call upon the international community to be firm in its condemnation and rejection of all of Israel's illegal settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, regardless of the pretexts or unjustifiable justifications given by the Government of Israel. All settlements and settlement-related infrastructure, including the Wall, are illegal no matter where they are constructed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in East Jerusalem. Colonization of occupied territory via the transfer of citizens of the occupying Power is strictly prohibited by article 49 (6) of the Fourth Geneva Convention, is considered to be a grave breach under Additional Protocol 1 to the Geneva Conventions, and constitutes a war crime under article 8 (2) (a) (iv) and (b) (viii) of the Rome Statute. Moreover, the illegality of this practice and the demands for its complete cessation and reversal have been repeatedly reaffirmed by the United Nations General Assembly, Security Council, Human Rights Council and Economic and Social Council as well as by the International Court of Justice in its Advisory Opinion dated 9 July 2004. It is also imperative to recall Israel's obligation under the road map to freeze all settlement activities, including so-called "natural growth", and to dismantle all settlement outposts erected since March 2001.

In total defiance and disrespect of the rule of law and the international community, Israel continues to breach all of its legal obligations and commitments in this regard without consequence. It is incumbent on the international community, including the Security Council, to act collectively and responsibly to bring a halt to this illegitimate situation. Practical measures must be considered to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to halt this illegal campaign or to be held accountable for its violations and obstruction of the efforts to attain peace and security. It is unquestionable that Israel's illegal settlement activities are destroying the viability and physical attainability of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders and constitute the major obstacle to the revival of negotiations for the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.

Indeed, Israel's illegal actions continue to undermine any and all efforts to resume the peace process, including via direct negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides, on the basis of the well-known parameters and within the time frame specified by the Quartet in its 23 September 2011 statement, a deadline that is quickly approaching with the rapid passage of months marked only by a lack of progress due to Israel's intransigence and the further deterioration and destabilization of the situation on the ground. Israel must be compelled to abandon its expansionism, colonization and aggression against the Palestinian people and their land and instead pursue peace and take the hand of peace outstretched to it by the Palestinian leadership.

Here, we reaffirm Palestine's commitment to a peaceful, just solution by echoing the words of President Mahmoud Abbas yesterday at the International Economic Forum held in Istanbul, Turkey, where he stated: "Our region needs bridges of cooperation, peace and dialogue rather than walls and settlement expansion", and further cautioned that time is running out for this historic peaceful compromise. We thus stress the urgency of serious, collective action to advance the achievement of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders. On this forty-

fifth anniversary of the belligerent, military occupation, we call for the redoubling of efforts to bring an end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian and other Arab lands, which requires an end and reversal of the illegal settlement campaign, and to realize the long overdue independence of the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, living side by side with Israel and all its neighbours in peace and security, and the just solution of all core final status issues.

Before concluding, I must draw your attention once again to the ongoing Palestinian prisoner crisis and particularly the grave situation of hunger-striking prisoners, including Mahmoud Al-Sarsak and Akram Al-Rekhmawi, to whom I referred in my letter of 4 June 2012. Al-Sarsak, now in his eightieth day of hunger strike and in rapidly deteriorating health, has been visited by independent doctors affiliated with Physicians for Human Rights-Israel, who have determined that he is at risk of immediate death and must be hospitalized. We renew our appeal to the international community to act on their moral and legal responsibilities to save his life and the lives of others being endangered by the occupying Power's repressive and brutal policies. It must be demanded that Israel respect all of its legal obligations, including under humanitarian and human rights law, vis-à-vis the Palestinian civilians, including children, that it continues to hold captive and that all prisoners and detainees being illegally held be released. Moreover, Israel must be demanded to respect the provisions of the agreement of 14 May 2012 aimed at alleviating the suffering and deplorable conditions being endured by Palestinian prisoners and detainees. This must include upholding the commitment not to renew administrative detentions without charge and to allow for visits by Palestinian families from the Gaza Strip.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 428 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 9 May 2012 (A/ES-10/556-S/2012/396) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Riyad Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
19 June 2012

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and
the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

**Identical letters dated 18 June 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the
Security Council**

It is with regret that I must draw your attention to the fact that this past week the Palestinian people solemnly marked the fifth year since the imposition of Israel's illegal blockade against the Gaza Strip. This immoral, inhumane blockade has been imposed by the occupying Power since June 2007, in collective punishment of the over 1.6 million Palestinian civilians living there, in deliberate, grave breach of international law, specifically the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits the occupying Power from collectively punishing protected persons and prohibits pillaging and reprisals against them and their property (article 33), and article 50 of the Hague Regulations, recognized by the international community as customary international law, as well as in violation of the population's basic human rights.

The repeated international calls on Israel, the occupying Power, to end this suffocating, destructive land, air and sea blockade have gone unheeded, and Israel continues to obstruct the free movement of persons and goods, including essential humanitarian goods, reconstruction materials and commercial flows. As a result, the humanitarian and socioeconomic situation in Gaza Strip remains critical and the fabric of Palestinian life there continues to be gravely impaired. After half a decade of this collective punishment, poverty and unemployment are rampant; malnutrition is prevalent in the majority of children; vital civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, electric power plants, roads, and water and sanitation systems, is deteriorating into disrepair or remains damaged or destroyed as a result of the December 2008-January 2009 Israeli military aggression; reconstruction has barely progressed; and the economy and normal commerce are in tatters, with ongoing restrictions preventing sustainable economic growth.

Gaza also continues to be the target of Israeli military strikes on civilian areas and fishing boats that have caused death and injury to civilians and more destruction

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of properties. In this regard, Israeli airstrikes launched today killed two Palestinian men near Beit Hanoun and were preceded by missile strikes on an area in Rafah, on Sunday, 17 June, that caused injury to at least five other people, including a woman and child. Palestinian farmers in Gaza and fishermen also continue to be targeted by Israeli gunfire and artillery, a constant threat to their safety and their livelihoods.

The situation in Gaza thus remains precarious, with any normalcy of life precluded by the occupying Power's repressive and violent measures. As documented by various United Nations agencies, including, inter alia, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the occupied Palestinian territory, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international organizations, at least 44 per cent of Palestinians in Gaza are food insecure and 80 per cent are aid dependent. Unemployment remains high, affecting at least 34 per cent of the population, including over half of youth. It is also estimated that 38 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line as livelihoods continue to be undermined. Severe restrictions on exports continue, and access to 35 per cent of farmland and 85 per cent of fishing waters is completely or partially restricted, resulting, inter alia, in the loss of an estimated 75,000 metric tons of produce yearly and loss of income for approximately 35,000 people dependent on the fishing industry. Access to education and medical treatment outside of Gaza and family visits to Palestinians from Gaza imprisoned by Israel also continue to be obstructed. Moreover, the well-being of the population and environmental conditions continue to be seriously impacted by power outages up to 12 hours a day owing to fuel and electricity shortages, the daily dumping of 90 million litres of untreated sewage into the sea, and the fact that over 90 per cent of the water from the Gaza aquifer is unsafe for human consumption without treatment.

We are grateful for the international community's consistent demand that Israel, the occupying Power, bring an end to this unjust situation and for redress of this man-made humanitarian disaster. The calls on Israel to lift the blockade and allow for the sustained, regular movement of people and goods to and from Gaza and the restoration of its link with the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the calls and substantial support for the reconstruction of Gaza must not relent. In this regard, we draw attention to, and express deep gratitude for, the joint appeal recently issued, on 14 June 2012, by 50 international aid groups and United Nations agencies calling on Israel to lift the blockade. In that appeal, the signatories stated, inter alia: "For over five years in Gaza, more than 1.6 million people have been under blockade in violation of international law. More than half of these people are children. We the undersigned say with one voice: 'end the blockade now'."

We call on Israel, the occupying Power, to heed the will of the international community and to act forthwith in accordance with its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, and relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution 1860 (2009), to end this blockade of the Gaza Strip and to cease its violation of the human rights of our people there. Israel cannot be absolved of its legal obligations at the expense of the lives, well-being and livelihood of the more than 1.6 million Palestinians, who are being brutally subjected to such harsh and prolonged collective punishment. The international community, including the United Nations, must respect its legal obligations in this regard and act collectively, bearing in mind the above moral appeal by agencies and international organizations representing a wide segment of

humanitarian and human rights groups from around the world, to help to bring a definitive end to this unjust situation afflicting the Palestinian people in Gaza.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 429 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 7 June 2012 (A/ES-10/557-S/2012/410) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Feda Abdelhady Nasser
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
21 June 2012

Original: English

**General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5****Security Council
Sixty-seventh year****Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the
rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory****Identical letters dated 20 June 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the
Security Council**

I write to you in follow-up to our previous letters regarding Israel's illegal settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the accompanying insidious campaign of Israeli settler terror against the Palestinian people. I regret to inform you of continuing illegal measures by Israel, the occupying Power, aimed at the further expropriation of Palestinian land, destruction of Palestinian homes and properties, and the intimidation and displacement of the Palestinian civilian population.

In this regard, acts of aggression and provocation by extremist Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and properties, including homes, agricultural orchards, mosques, churches and cemeteries, continue unabated. Yesterday, yet another mosque in the Occupied Palestinian Territory was attacked by Israeli settlers. Villagers in Jaba awoke to find their mosque ablaze and the desecration of its walls with graffiti declaring "Ulpana War", "The war has begun" and "Pay the price", clearly indicating in this vile act the hand of settlers, who have repeatedly destroyed Palestinian civilian properties. Many similar violent and destructive actions have been committed as deliberate retribution, or so-called "price-tag" attacks, against the Palestinian civilian population in response to Israeli measures regarding illegal settlement outposts.

The impunity of the extremist settlers is no doubt bolstered by the Israeli Government's failure and unwillingness to hold them accountable for the constant terror they are wreaking. We reiterate that Israel, the occupying Power, is responsible for all of the crimes committed by the settlers it has transferred to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in grave breach of international humanitarian law. We call for immediate action by the occupying Power to hold the perpetrators accountable and to act to avert the continuation of such criminal, provocative attacks, which are aggravating tensions and religious sensitivities between the two sides and risk further destabilizing the situation on the ground.

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The situation also continues to be exacerbated by the continuation of demolition of Palestinian homes and properties throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, by Israel, the occupying Power. These actions, which constitute grave violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention and human rights law and which are causing severe hardship for hundreds more Palestinian families, are also heightening already-high frustrations and mistrust. We express our total condemnation of these illegal measures and draw the international community's attention to this matter of grave concern, with an appeal for urgent, collective action aimed at compelling Israel to end such unlawful, destructive policies and practices.

This week alone, the Israeli occupying forces handed down demolition and confiscation orders against nearly 100 Palestinian properties. On 12 June, a mass demolition order was issued against the entire village of Susiya in the southern West Bank for the destruction of all 50 buildings in the village, including homes, tents, a kindergarten, a health clinic and the village's renewable energy system. If carried out, this demolition would result in the forced displacement of the village's 350 Palestinians, including 120 children. The occupying Power is using the pretext of protecting the adjacent illegal settlement as the basis for carrying out this unlawful, immoral action, while in reality it is the Palestinian civilian population that is in dire need of protection from the extremist settlers, who continue to attack the village, which at the same time is being encroached upon by the illegal settlements and outposts in Masafer Yatta near Al-Khalil.

The occupying Power also recently issued orders for the confiscation of land in the town of Al-Khader south of Bethlehem. If the land is seized, it will not only negatively affect the rightful Palestinian owners, but will also affect farmers, who will not be able to reach their property located in the same area. Also, in the Bethlehem area, on 18 June, occupying forces demolished several domestic tents and sheds in the town of Al-Ubeidiya. This was preceded by yet another demolition in Occupied East Jerusalem, where the occupying forces demolished a 700 square metre complex of sheep barns, which were the only source of income for five families, in addition to destroying 20 tons of barley. Also, in Occupied East Jerusalem, Israel continues its illegal, provocative measures in the Silwan neighbourhood, where approval was given on 18 June for the construction of a 9,000 square metre tourist centre in Silwan, putting the neighbourhood at risk for further confiscation of land and the further marginalization and suffocation of its Palestinian residents. Furthermore, on 18 June, the occupying forces issued 35 demolition orders to Palestinians in the village of Beit Ummar, which is located near to the illegal Israeli settlement of "Karmi Zur", which continues to encroach upon the village's lands, and issued demolition orders against four residential tents and a solar and wind power system in the southern village of Tuba.

It is abundantly clear that all of these illegal measures are part and parcel of Israel's schemes aimed at seizing more Palestinian land, displacing the Palestinian civilian population and establishing more facts on the ground in order to entrench its control and de facto annexation of that land, thereby prejudicing the outcome of any negotiation for a final peace settlement. As we have cautioned on numerous prior occasions, we reiterate that all such illegal colonization measures by Israel are seriously damaging the viability of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, making its physical attainability more and more impossible and undermining any attempts to resuscitate the political process to achieve that solution.

The international community, including the Security Council, has a direct responsibility, in accordance with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, to act to bring an end to the ongoing Israeli violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Serious, collective efforts are urgently needed in order to bring an end to the ongoing hardships and dispossession being endured by the Palestinian people under Israel's occupation, and to salvage the two-State solution as the core of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement that brings an end to the Israeli occupation since 1967 and ensures the realization of the rights of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination and freedom in their independent State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital.

In closing, in follow-up to my letter of 18 June 2012, I regret to inform you that Israel, the occupying Power, also continues its military attacks against the Gaza Strip, causing more death and injury to Palestinian civilians in this besieged area of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Today, Israeli air strikes on Gaza City killed a 14-year-old boy, Mou'men Al-Adam, and injured two other people, including the boy's father, and an air strike earlier in the day on Rafah led to the killing of a 21-year-old man, Ghaleb Awwad Armeelat. Yesterday, two boys, Muhammad Bassam Abu Mueliq, age 18, and Yousef Al-Talbani, age 16, were also killed by the occupying forces in central Gaza, south of Al-Maghazi refugee camp, after Israeli tanks entered and fired upon the area. These military attacks bring the total of Palestinians killed by Israel since the latest escalation began on Sunday to eight people, with at least 20 more wounded.

The international community, including the Security Council, has a duty to uphold international law, including with regard to the protection of civilians in situations of armed conflict in all circumstances. Israel, the occupying Power, must be demanded to cease all its military operations and illegal measures against the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in the Gaza Strip, and must be demanded to abide by international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, without exception. This is necessary for the de-escalation of the situation to prevent the onset of yet another cycle of deadly violence in which more innocent civilian lives will be lost.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 430 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 18 June 2012 (A/ES-10/558-S/2012/450) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Feda Abdelhady Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
27 June 2012

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5**Security Council**
Sixty-seventh year**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem
and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory****Identical letters dated 26 June 2012 from the Permanent
Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

In follow-up of our previous letters regarding Israel's ongoing military campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, I regret to inform you that many more Palestinian civilians, including children and women, continue to be victims of deadly and destructive attacks by Israel, the occupying Power, particularly in the besieged Gaza Strip.

The Israeli occupying forces have continued to carry out missile air strikes and artillery bombardment of civilian areas in the Gaza Strip in grave violation of international law, including the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in time of war. In this regard, Israel continues to deliberately target and kill Palestinian civilians, continuing its policy of extrajudicial executions. Moreover, no place in Gaza is safe from Israel's relentless aggression, with even playgrounds now becoming targets for Israel's F-16 warplanes. Since 17 June, at least 15 Palestinians, including 3 children, have been killed and dozens injured in Israeli military attacks against the Gaza Strip, with a toll of nearly 70 people, including 17 children and 5 women.

On 22 June, Basem Abdallah Ahmad, age 28, from the Al-Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, was killed when the Israeli forces fired artillery shells into an area east of the camp in the central Gaza Strip. This attack was followed by the killing, on 23 June, of Mutaz Shawwaf, a five-year-old child, who died after being struck by an Israeli missile attack on a playground in Abassan, near Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip. Hammam Abu Qadous, age 20, from the Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood of Gaza City, died of his wounds after he and two others were injured by an Israeli missile strike that had targeted them. Khaled Nasser Al-Bore'i, age 24, was killed when an Israeli warplane fired missiles at an area in the northern Gaza Strip, and Osama Mahmoud Ali, age 42, was killed by missile fire by an Israeli drone west of Gaza City. Airstrikes continued throughout the Gaza Strip, injuring dozens of more people and causing destruction to civilian properties.

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Turning to the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, I must draw your urgent attention once again to Israel's intense and ongoing illegal settlement campaign. Construction of settlements and so-called outposts continue, as do provocative declarations by the occupying Power indicating its illegal intentions and plans in this regard. Today, 26 June, Israel announced plans to construct an additional 180 units in the illegal settlement of "East Talpiot", also known as "Armon HaNetziv", in Occupied East Jerusalem. At the same time, pending demolition orders, which we have drawn attention to in our previous letters, continue to threaten the destruction of Palestinian homes and the displacement of more Palestinian families.

All such actions are further proof that Israel is not interested in achieving the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders. Indeed, the occupying Power proves daily its preference for continuing its illegitimate occupation of the Palestinian land, with continued commitment of war crimes and grave breaches of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, prolonging the conflict and the suffering our people are being forced to endure.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 431 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 20 June 2012 (A/ES-10/559-S/2012/464) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Riyad Mansour**
Ambassador

Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations